

Message Text

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17

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 CIAE-00 SY-05 DODE-00 DEAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /063 W

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P R 160400Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4579

US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 298

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 747

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FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: RECENT MALAYSIAN DEVELOPMENTS

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REF: (A) BANGKOK 25274 (NOTAL), (B) BANGKOK 25204 (NOTAL),

(C) KUALA LUMPUR 5218, (D) KUALA LUMPUR 5223 (NOTAL),
(E) KUALA LUMPUR 5238 (NOTAL), (F) BANGKOK 25579 (NOTAL),
(G) BANGKOK 15559 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. BOAT CARRYING CAMBODIAN REFUGEES, EXPELLED EARLIER FROM THAILAND, REFUSED PERMISSION LAND IN MALAYSIA. GOM OFFICER STATES THAT OFFICIAL POLICY NOW IS TO TURN AWAY REFUGEE BOATS THAT "APPEAR SEAWORTHY." JAPANESE REGISTRY VESSEL CARRYING 57 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES APPARENTLY WILL STOP AT MALAYSIAN PORT FOLLOWING STOPS ELSEWHERE IN REGION. FRG WILL ACCEPT FIVE REFUGEES AND MAY TAKE AS MANY AS SIXTY MORE FROM MALAYSIA. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED MFA OFFICER HANDLING REFUGEE MATTERS, SHAMSUDDIN ABDULLAH, SEPT 15 TO INQUIRE ABOUT CAMBODIAN REFUGEE BOAT EXPELLED FROM SONGKHLA, THAILAND (REFS A,B,D) AND ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. SHAMSUDDIN CONFIRMED BOAT HAD ARRIVED AT UNSPECIFIED LOCATION ALONG THE TRENGGANU COAST "A FEW DAYS AGO" AND HAD BEEN "LED BACK" TO INTERNATIONAL WATERS. GOM POLICY WAS, HE STATED, TO TURN AWAY BOATS THAT "APPEAR SEAWORTHY" AND NOT RPT NOT ALLOW THEM INTO MALAYSIAN WATERS. ANOTHER BOAT CARRYING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAD BEEN TURNED AWAY IN SIMILAR FASHION, HE NOTED. ASKED WHETHER LATTER WAS THE BOAT RECENTLY REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS (REF E), HE REPLIED THAT IT PROBABLY WAS THE SAME. HE SAID THE CAMBODIAN BOAT SEEMED TO BE HEADING SOUTHWARD, BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE VIETNAMESE CRAFT. HOWEVER, MISS FRASER OF UNHCR JUST INFORMED US UNHCR BANGKOK HAS WORD CAMBODIAN VESSEL HAS REACHED SAMUT PRAKAN, SOUTH OF BANGKOK AND "MAY BE ALLOWED TO STAY."

3. MISS FRASER ALSO INFORMS US THAT THE JAPANESE REGISTRY VESSEL THE "MIGHTY" WITH 57 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD (REFS E AND F) SCHEDULED DEPART SINGAPORE EARLY SEPT 16 EN ROUTE BELAWAN NEAR MEDAN, INDONESIA, AND THENCE TO PENANG, PORT KLANG AND KARACHI.

4. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, FRG EMBASSY OFFICER TOURED EAST COAST LAST WEEK INTERVIEWING REFUGEES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AND WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE RECOMMENDING BONN ACCEPT SOME 50 TO 60. THOSE WHO INDICATED ANY TIES WITH U.S. WERE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSIDERED. FIVE REFUGEES NOW IN SARAWAK DEFINITELY ACCEPTED BY FRG AS THEY HAVE A BROTHER IN GERMANY.

5. COMMENT: REFUGEE CRAFT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ALLOWED ENTER MALAYSIAN WATERS IF THEY APPEAR SEAWORTHY. UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR TOLD DCM SEPT 10 THAT HE HAD DETECTED AN EASING IN GOM POSITION, AND THAT FEWER BOATS WERE BEING EXPELLED. IF SHAMSUDDIN'S REMARKS, HOWEVER, ARE AN ADEQUATE REFLECTION OF

OFFICIAL POLICY, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TO THE CONTRARY GOM'S POSITION IS HARDENING SINCE BY THIS YARDSTICK REFUGEES NOW WOULD BE UNABLE TO LAND FOR REPROVISIONING AS FORMERLY WAS THE CASE. POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IS INVOLVEMENT OF WEST GERMANS, WHO NOW JOIN CANADIANS, FRENCH AND OURSELVES IN TAKING INTEREST IN REFUGEES. INTERNATIONAL EFFORT HERETOFORE PALTRY AS ONLY U.S. (120) AND HONG KONG (1) HAVE TAKEN ANY INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS (REF C). UNDERHILL

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